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DOCTOR • WHO

The Doctor

He's a Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey. He's more than 900 years old. If there's danger, he's the man who's going to save your life—and everyone on your planet. Got a problem with that?

The TARDIS

The Doctor's dimensionally transcendental time/space machine, cunningly disguised as a police public call box. The trip of a lifetime is guaranteed with every journey!

THE STORY SO FAR...

The Angels of Enochia have won. London is in flames. And The Doctor—having made a stand against UNIT, The Advocate, and their scorched earth plan for stopping the angels—is now under arrest and locked in a cell. And while Martha and Emily plan how to rescue him, Matthew and Mister Crane stand beside The Advocate as she creates a weapon of mass destruction. The target: Greenwich Park...

Doctor Who #12 • "DON'T STEP ON THE GRASS" • Part Four: "Drawing Straws"

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Art by Paul Grist
Colors by Phil Elliott

Cover RI
Art by Paul Grist
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Written by >> Tony Lee

Art by >> Blair Shedd

Colors by >> Charlie Kirchoff

Letters by >> Neil Uyetake

Edits by >> Denton J. Tipton

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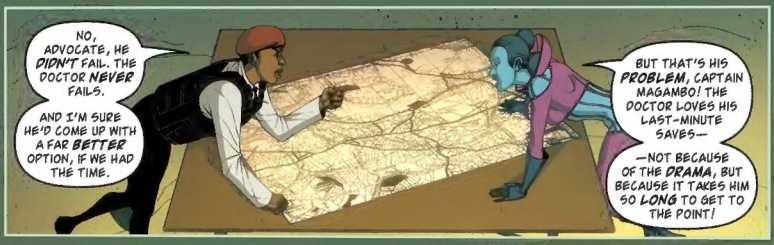
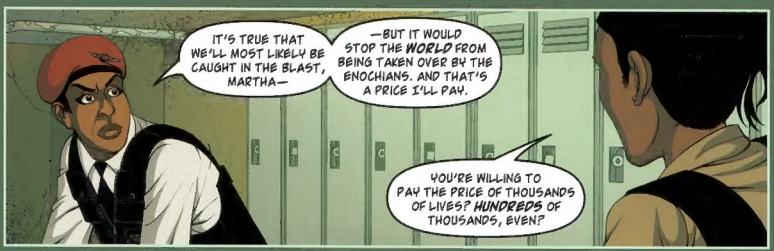
"LONDON HAS FALLEN.
"WITH THE ENERGY DOME STILL BLOCKING ANY HELP FROM OUTSIDE OF THE CAPITAL, WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
"THE TREES HAVE ESCAPED THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PARKS, AND WITH THE ANGELS HAVE SECURED MOST OF THE CITY.
"WE STILL FIGHT, BUT IT'S A LOSING BATTLE—NOTHING MORE THAN GUERILLA TACTICS.
"WITH NOTHING TO LOSE, WE NEED A SAVIOUR, SOMEONE TO BRING US THROUGH THIS..."

"...BUT THE DOCTOR FAILED."

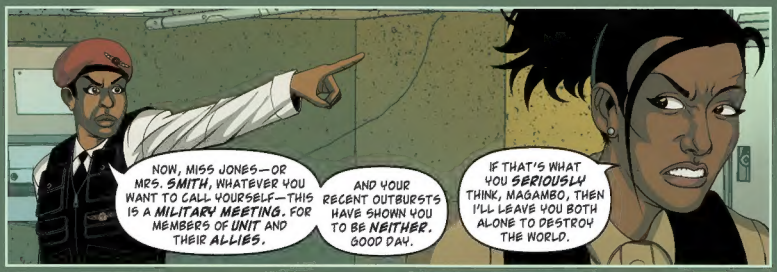

NO, ADVOCATE, HE DIDN'T FAIL. THE DOCTOR NEVER FAILS.
AND I'M SURE HE'D COME UP WITH A FAR BETTER OPTION, IF WE HAD THE TIME.
BUT THAT'S HIS PROBLEM, CAPTAIN MAGAMBO! THE DOCTOR LOVES HIS LAST-MINUTE SAVES—
—NOT BECAUSE OF THE DRAMA, BUT BECAUSE IT TAKES HIM SO LONG TO GET TO THE POINT!

BUT FOR ONCE HE DIDN'T HAVE THE LIBERTY OF TIME FOR HIS BUMBLING.
FOR ONCE HE HAD TO MAKE A QUICK DECISION. AND HE COULDN'T.

AND WHAT DECISION WAS THAT, ADVOCATE? TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DESTROYING HALF OF LONDON, OR ALL OF EUROPE?
YOUR "SOLUTION" IS DANGEROUS. IT'LL KILL US ALL!


IT'S TRUE THAT WE'LL MOST LIKELY BE CAUGHT IN THE BLAST, MARTHA—
—BUT IT WOULD STOP THE WORLD FROM BEING TAKEN OVER BY THE ENOCHIANS. AND THAT'S A PRICE I'LL PAY.
YOU'RE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE OF THOUSANDS OF LIVES? HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, EVEN?

YES, IF IT SAVES BILLIONS. AND BESIDES, THAT'S THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.
THE CHANCES ARE, WE'LL LOSE GREENWICH AT MOST. MAYBE EVEN ONLY THE SQUARE MILE AROUND THE OBSERVATORY.


NOW, MISS JONES—OR MRS. SMITH, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL YOURSELF—THIS IS A MILITARY MEETING. FOR MEMBERS OF UNIT AND THEIR ALLIES.
AND YOUR RECENT OUTBURSTS HAVE SHOWN YOU TO BE NEITHER. GOOD DAY.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU SERIOUSLY THINK, MAGAMBO, THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU BOTH ALONE TO DESTROY THE WORLD.

SO, NOW WHAT? WE BOTH KNOW THAT THE DOCTOR HAS TO GET OUT OF HIS CELL!
HOW ELSE CAN HE SAVE US?
ARE YOU THAT SURE HE CAN?

OF COURSE HE CAN! HE'S THE DOCTOR! YOU TRAVELLED WITH HIM, SURELY YOU KNOW THIS!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU THAT MADE YOU LOSE YOUR FAITH IN HIM SO MUCH?

WHAT HAPPENED? HE LOST FAITH IN ME.
THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK.

YOU'RE RIGHT, EMILY. WE NEED THE DOCTOR. I NEED THE DOCTOR. SO LET'S GO SAVE HIM...
...SO THAT HE CAN SAVE US ALL.

HEY, O'SHEA, IS THAT THE DOCTOR'S CELL?
STOREROOM 7
IT IS, MARTHA, BUT YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED ENTRY.
I'M SORRY—
SO ARE WE. AND IF YOU DON'T OPEN THE DOOR, I'LL FIRE THIS GUN I HAVE RESTING AGAINST YOUR SPINE.
MISS WINTER, FIRSTLY, WE KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE A GUN...
...AND SECONDLY, WE WERE EXPECTING YOU.
KA-CHOK
A WATER PISTOL? I'M ALMOST IMPRESSED.
BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'D NEED A FAIR BIT MORE THAN THAT TO OVERPOWER US.
OH, I AGREE WITH YOU. THAT'S WHY WE CALLED IN HELP WHEN WE PICKED UP THE WATER PISTOL—
—UNIT, MEET THE KNIGHTS ARBORETUM.
THEY LIKE THE DOCTOR. AND THEY HAVE A REAL PROBLEM WITH THE WHOLE "BLOWING UP THE PARK" IDEA.

UNDERGROUND.
TRA-KOOM!
AT LAST! COME, FREE ME, MY BROTHERS!
FRREEP!
GRRAW!
FREEE!
FIND ME THE DOCTOR. I FEEL AN URGE TO KILL...
...AND I WANT TO START WITH HIM.

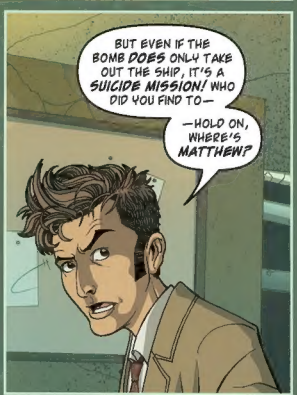
MAGAMBO, STOP THIS INSANITY NOW!
DOCTOR! I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS—THE ANGELS HAVE REDOUBLED THEIR EFFORTS UNDER THEIR FORCE SHIELD!

FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO TEACH ME A LESSON, ADVOCATE, YOU REALLY DO SEEM TO WANT TO KILL ME A WHOLE LOT MORE.
OH, PLEASE—CHAINED TO A WALL AND A MAD OLD MAN WITH A RIFLE? CHILD'S PLAY.

I KNOW YOU THINK I'M SQUEAMISH ABOUT USING THE BOMB, BUT I'M NOT. BELIEVE ME, I'VE DONE FAR WORSE.
BUT IT'S NOT THAT THAT YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT, IT'S THE FALLOUT!
YOU DESTROY THE SHIP, THE ANGELS—GROOVY. BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THE ENOCHIANS!

THEY'RE ENERGY BASED—ALL THIS BOMB DOES IS FREE THEM!
IT REMOVES THE DOME SO THEY CAN SCATTER ACROSS LONDON, ENGLAND, EVEN CENTRAL EUROPE—
—ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PARTS OF BELGIUM THAT COULD PROBABLY BENEFIT FROM THAT...

WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS THE SAME AS BLOWING THE HEAD OF A DANDELION.
WELL, YOU KNOW, IF THE DANDELION WAS A SHIP FULL OF PSYCHOTIC ENERGY THINGS.
BUT FLY THE SHIP OUT OF EARTH'S ORBIT—IT'LL PULL THEM AWAY FROM EARTH!
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR, BUT THE WEAPON HAS ALREADY BEEN DEPLOYED. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
TAKE YOUR SONIC SCREWDRIVER BACK... AND JOIN US IN OUR FINAL BATTLE.

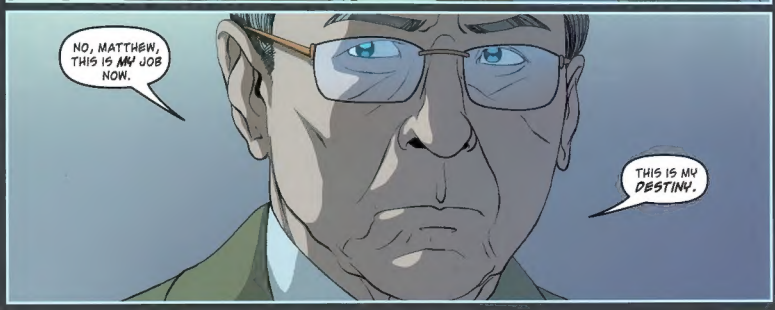

BUT EVEN IF THE BOMB DOES ONLY TAKE OUT THE SHIP, IT'S A SUICIDE MISSION! WHO DID YOU FIND TO—
—HOLD ON, WHERE'S MATTHEW?

-SHK-
-GAK-

-PHEW-
YOU'RE A HEAVY ONE, AREN'T YOU?

I DIDN'T BANG YOU TOO HARD, DID I? YOU'RE NOT COUNTING DOWN YET?
PRIME
GOOD. HATE TO SEE YOU GO OFF TOO SOON.

I'LL TAKE IT NOW, MATTHEW, IT'S A BIT DANGEROUS OUT THERE.
I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING HURT.
ARE YOU SURE? IT'S HEAVY. I CAN TAKE IT FARTHER FOR YOU—


NO, MATTHEW, THIS IS MY JOB NOW.
THIS IS MY DESTINY.

GREENWICH HIGH STREET.
DOCTOR! WHERE ARE YOU?!
COME OUT AND DIE!
VAROOM
WHERE IS THE DOCTOR?
BRAKKAAA
WHO KNOWS? PROBABLY THE SAME PLACE THAT THE ADVOCATE WENT TO.
OR HE WENT TO THE SHIP TO TRY AND SAVE THE DAY. WE CALL THAT "WEDNESDAYS."
SWOOSH
BRAKKAAA
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!
BOOM
TING
TING
TING
CRASH
NICE GROUPING THERE.

MATTHEW! WHERE ARE YOU?

MATTHEW, YOU DON'T NEED TO—
—OH. HELLO.
DOCTOR. I WONDERED WHEN YOU'D COME TO TRY TO STOP ME.

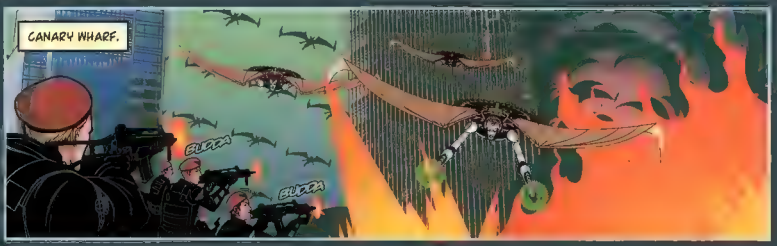
STOP YOU? NO, JUST CHANGING THE GAME SLIGHTLY.
GOING TO TRY TO FLY US UP A BIT BEFORE MAKING THE FIREWORKS GO OFF.
REALLY? AND HOW WILL WE GET OFF THIS FLYING DEATH TRAP?

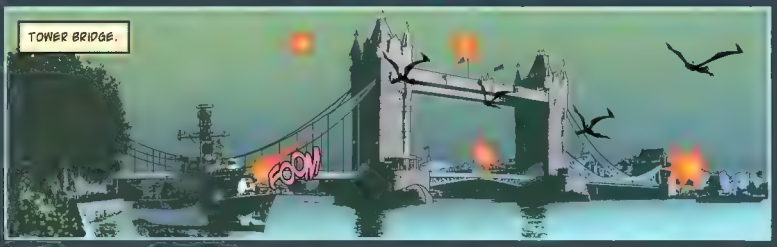
I HADN'T GOT THAT FAR YET.
BUT I'M SURE IT'LL BE BRILLIANT.

THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO CONSIDER IS YOUR IMPENDING DEATH!
TRAITORS! OATH BREAKERS! I SEE EVERYTHING NOW!

SEE EVERYTHING? I DON'T THINK SO. I MEAN, YOU'VE NOT SEEN AN ELEPHANT EAT ITS OWN HEAD, HAVE YOU?
OR A SYCORAX IN A BROADWAY SHOW? ALTHOUGH THERE WAS THAT SLITHEN IN WICKED...
AND YOU'VE CERTAINLY NOT SEEN THIS...
GURK

HELLO. IF YOU HAVE FOUND THIS, IT MEANS THAT I AM DEAD, AND THAT I HAVE MOST LIKELY FAILED IN DESTROYING THIS DEVIL VESSEL.
YOU! CURSED DEE! YOU ARE DEAD! HOW CAN THIS—
FZZZZT
MADE YOU LOOK.
SORRY, NO TIME FOR A BIG FIGHT WITH THE END OF LEVEL BOSS, WE'RE ON A BIT OF A DEADLINE.
GRRAARGHH!
MANY YEARS AGO, THESE ANGELS SPOKE TO ME THROUGH A FRIEND, EDWARD KELLEY—
SPLASH
SORRY, I GET BORED WITH REPEATS. DON'T YOU?
CLICK
COME ON, CRANEY, LET'S GET THIS BABY SPACEBORN! FUSION DRIVES TO FULL, I FEEL!
ARMED
HEY! HAVE YOU EVER TRIED A HIGH ALTITUDE JUMP WITH A PAIR OF CLOCKWORK WINGS?


CANARY WHARF.
ELUDDA
ELUDDA

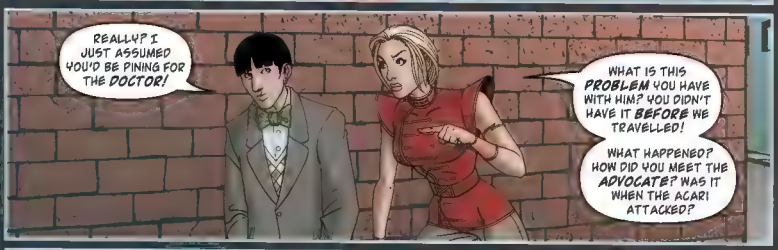

TOWER BRIDGE.
FOOM

THE POWELL ESTATE, PECKHAM.
OI! GET OFF OUR PLANET, MARTIAN!

SAINT PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.
CAN ANYONE READ ME?! IS THERE ANYONE THERE?!

GREENWICH.
FOOM
FIRE!

EMILY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MATTHEW! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU!


REALLY? I JUST ASSUMED YOU'D BE PINING FOR THE DOCTOR!
WHAT IS THIS PROBLEM YOU HAVE WITH HIM? YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT BEFORE WE TRAVELLED!
WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID YOU MEET THE ADVOCATE? WAS IT WHEN THE ACARI ATTACKED?

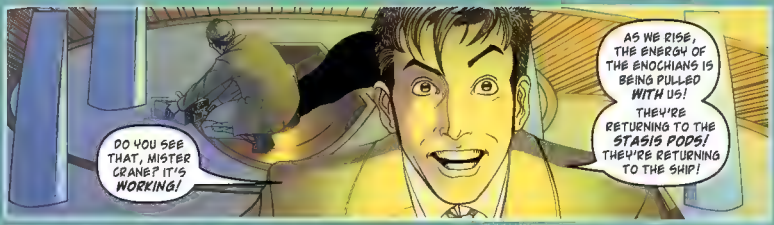
SHE GAVE ME THIS, EMILY. THE DIARY OF ONE OF THE DOCTOR'S OLD COMPANIONS.
IT TALKS ABOUT THE EVIL OF THE DOCTOR, THE ARROGANCE, THE SELFISHNESS!
YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME, EMILY! HE'S ONLY AFTER ONE THING—

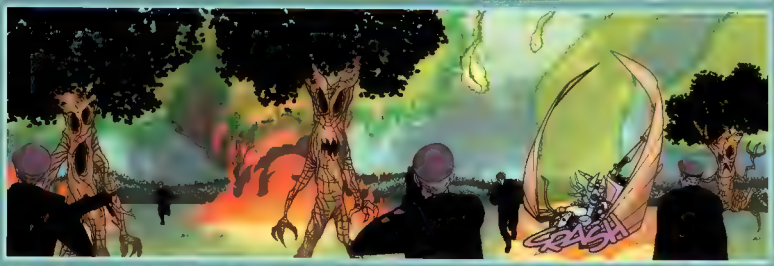
WHAT THE—
RUUMMMMMBELLEEEE

IT'S THE DOCTOR!

OF COURSE IT IS. IT'S ALWAYS THE DOCTOR.

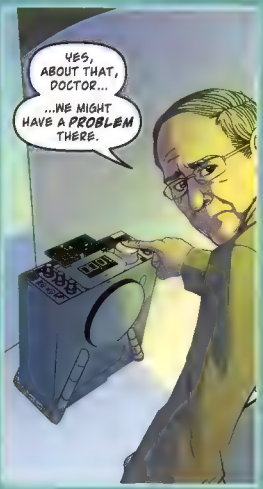
RUUMMMMMBBLLLEEEE

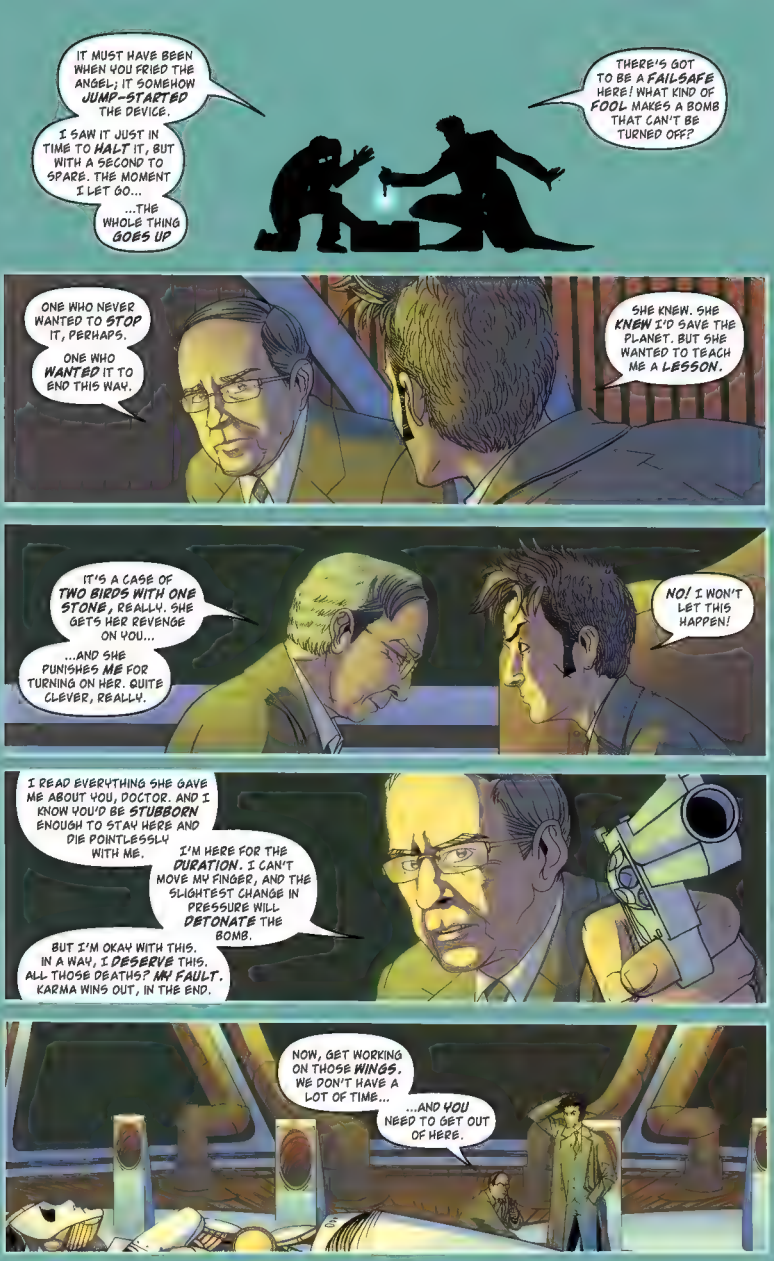

DO YOU SEE THAT, MISTER CRANE? IT'S WORKING!
AS WE RISE, THE ENERGY OF THE ENOCHIANS IS BEING PULLED WITH US!
THEY'RE RETURNING TO THE STASIS PODS! THEY'RE RETURNING TO THE SHIP!


CRASH

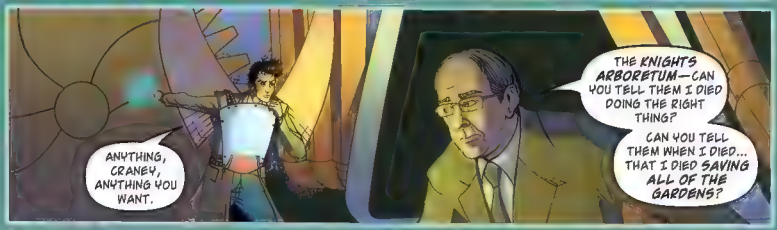
FOOM

THIS SHIP WILL JUST KEEP FLYING ON, CONSTANTLY AWAY FROM EARTH!
BY THE TIME THE ENOCHIANS GET OUT OF STASIS, THEY'LL BE FAR AWAY FROM HERE!
I BEAT THE ADVOCATE! HER BOMB ISN'T NEEDED AFTER ALL!


YES, ABOUT THAT, DOCTOR...
...WE MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM THERE.


IT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN YOU FRIED THE ANGEL; IT SOMEHOW JUMP-STARTED THE DEVICE.
I SAW IT JUST IN TIME TO HALT IT, BUT WITH A SECOND TO SPARE. THE MOMENT I LET GO...
...THE WHOLE THING GOES UP
THERE'S GOT TO BE A FAILSAFE HERE! WHAT KIND OF FOOL MAKES A BOMB THAT CAN'T BE TURNED OFF?
ONE WHO NEVER WANTED TO STOP IT, PERHAPS.
ONE WHO WANTED IT TO END THIS WAY.
SHE KNEW. SHE KNEW I'D SAVE THE PLANET. BUT SHE WANTED TO TEACH ME A LESSON.
IT'S A CASE OF TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE, REALLY. SHE GETS HER REVENGE ON YOU...
...AND SHE PUNISHES ME FOR TURNING ON HER. QUITE CLEVER, REALLY.
NO! I WON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!
I READ EVERYTHING SHE GAVE ME ABOUT YOU, DOCTOR. AND I KNOW YOU'D BE STUBBORN ENOUGH TO STAY HERE AND DIE POINTLESSLY WITH ME.
I'M HERE FOR THE DURATION. I CAN'T MOVE MY FINGER, AND THE SLIGHTEST CHANGE IN PRESSURE WILL DETONATE THE BOMB.
BUT I'M OKAY WITH THIS. IN A WAY, I DESERVE THIS. ALL THOSE DEATHS? MY FAULT. KARMA WINS OUT, IN THE END.
NOW, GET WORKING ON THOSE WINGS. WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME...
...AND YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO END LIKE THIS, CRANE. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LIVE.
I KNOW. BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT WHEN YOU GET BACK, YOU'LL MAKE SURE I'M NOT FORGOTTEN.
DOCTOR, CAN YOU DO ME ONE FAVOUR?


THE KNIGHTS ARBORETUM—CAN YOU TELL THEM I DIED DOING THE RIGHT THING?
CAN YOU TELL THEM WHEN I DIED... THAT I DIED SAVING ALL OF THE GARDENS?
ANYTHING, CRANEY, ANYTHING YOU WANT.

I'LL MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS, MISTER CRANE. THAT YOU WERE A HERO AT THE END.
I'M SORRY. I'M SO, SO SORRY.

LORD, GIVE ME THE SUNSHINE, SO MY FLOWERS STAND TALL...
...AND LORD, GIVE ME MORE TIME...
...TO CARE FOR THEM ALL.
CLICK

KRAKOOM
-SHNK-
COME ON. COME ON. LIFT...
CRASH

WELL, THAT WAS SOMETHING I NEVER WANT TO DO AGAIN.
DOCTOR! ARE YOU OKAY?
THIS IS ON YOU, ADVOCATE. I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM. THE SHIP WOULD HAVE TRAVELLED ON...
...BUT NO. YOU JUST HAD TO MAKE THE BOMB TAMPER-PROOF. YOU HAD TO KILL MISTER CRANE.
KILL MISTER CRANE? I DID NO SUCH THING. YOU MUST HAVE SCRAMBLED THE DEVICE WITH YOUR TAMPERING SOMEHOW.
YOU KILLED MISTER CRANE, DOCTOR. EVEN IF YOU SAVED SO MANY, YOU KILLED THAT MAN.
JUST LIKE HE KILLED ADRIC. JUST LIKE IT SAYS IN THE JOURNAL.
WHAT JOURNAL?
THIS ONE! THE ONE THAT TURLOUGH WRITES, THAT TELLS ME EVERYTHING!
THE ONE YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO FIND!
TURLOUGH—HE NEVER WROTE A JOURNAL!
THE ADVOCATE IS MANIPULATING YOU!
THEN THEY LEARNED FROM AN EXPERT, DOCTOR. YOU.
DOCTOR! ARE YOU HURT?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO TRUST HER! AND NOW MISTER CRANE IS DEAD! DYING A HERO'S DEATH TO SAVE EVERYONE!
BUT IF HE'D DONE WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO, EVERYONE HERE WOULD BE DEAD!
DON'T LECTURE ME, DOCTOR! YOU WEREN'T AROUND! AND I DID WHAT I FELT WAS RIGHT!
UNIT DEFINED A PLANET-LEVEL PROBLEM! AND WHEN UNIT IS ATTACKED—

IT SHOOTS SOMETHING. OR BLOWS IT UP. TYPICAL MILITARY.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, LEAVE. SIMPLY GET OFF THIS PLANET AND DON'T COME BACK UNTIL YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT FACE AGAIN...
...BECAUSE THIS ONE'S WORN OUT ITS WELCOME.

WELL, THEN. THAT'S THAT. COME ON, DON'T WANT TO KEEP THE NICE SOLDIERS WAITING.
I'M NOT COMING, DOCTOR.

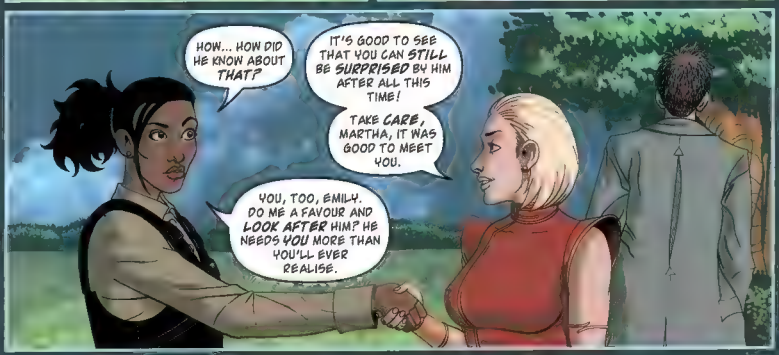
IF YOU WANT, I CAN RETURN YOU BACK TO YOUR TIME, BUT SERIOUSLY, MATTHEW...
...YOU WANT TO STAY HERE? AFTER ALL THIS?
NO, I'M GOING TO TRAVEL WITH THE ADVOCATE FOR A WHILE INSTEAD.
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR, BUT I TRUST HER MORE THAN YOU.

DOCTOR! YOU CAN'T LET HIM DO THIS—SHE'S EVIL!
IT'S HIS CHOICE, EMILY. I CAN'T STOP HIM. I CAN'T EVEN CONVINCE HIM AT THE MOMENT—

—BUT KNOW THIS, ADVOCATE, WE AREN'T FINISHED. AND IF I HEAR, SEE, OR EVEN SMELL THAT YOU'VE HARMED MATTHEW FINNEGAN...
...YOUR MILLENNIA IN THE TIME WAR WILL FEEL LIKE A WEEKEND AT DISNEYWORLD COMPARED TO WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU.

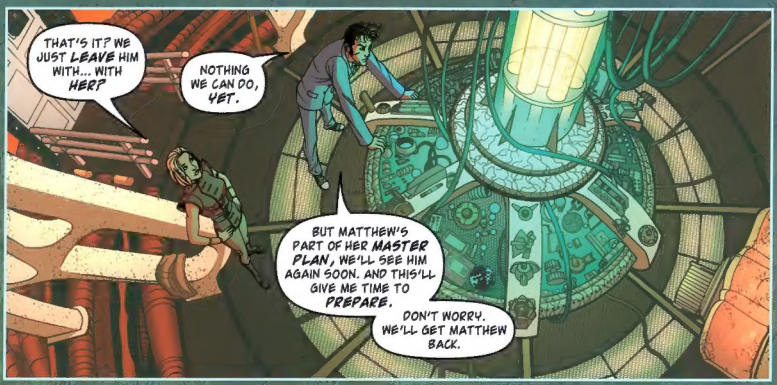
AND ME, DOCTOR? ARE YOU GOING TO WALK OFF WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE?
OH, MARTHA, THIS ISN'T GOODBYE! IT NEVER IS!
LOOK AT YOU, THOUGH—FAR GREATER NOW THAN THE MEDICAL STUDENT I ONCE MET!

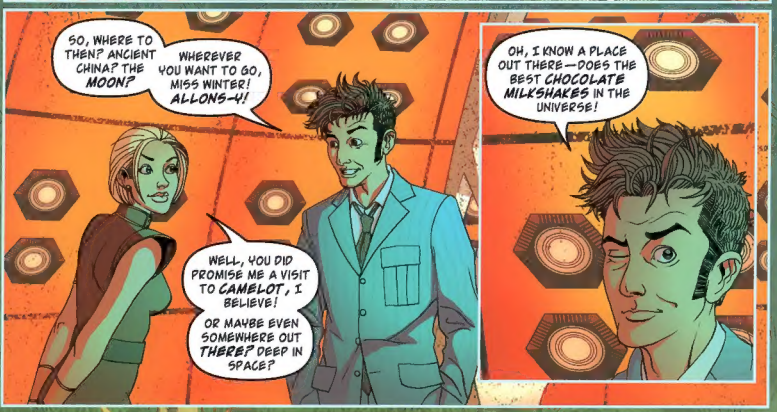
YOU DON'T NEED ME ANY MORE, IT'S TIME TO FIND YOUR OWN PATH. MARTHA SMITH, SAVIOUR OF EARTH.
OR ARE YOU KEEPING JONES? I FORGET!
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GO HELP MICKEY, THOUGH—WE BOTH KNOW HE'LL NEED IT.


HOW... HOW DID HE KNOW ABOUT THAT?
IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT YOU CAN STILL BE SURPRISED BY HIM AFTER ALL THIS TIME!
TAKE CARE, MARTHA, IT WAS GOOD TO MEET YOU.
YOU, TOO, EMILY. DO ME A FAVOUR AND LOOK AFTER HIM? HE NEEDS YOU MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER REALISE.

OH, AND STAY AWAY FROM UNIT. ALL THEY SEEM TO DO IS DEPRESS ME THESE DAYS.
BEEP BEEP

IT'S ME. YOU STILL NEED HELP ON THAT SONTARAN JOB? GOOD, THEN COUNT ME IN.
YEAH, AN OLD FRIEND HELPED ME CHANGE MY MIND.





NEXT: THE TENTH DOCTOR'S FINAL ADVENTURE—"FINAL SACRIFICE"!

DOCTOR'S NOTES: DIAGNOSIS & SECOND OPINIONS

Hi Denton, Neil, Charlie, Blair, and Tony,

I'm going to comment on the letter's page first. Thank you for printing my recent letter and having the comic I sent you in the spotlight. I love it... and what a great picture of the book with Tony.

As to people who might be tired of seeing my letters all the time, I would like to issue a challenge to the readers of this book. I enjoy the show and absolutely love this comic. I write each month and give my thoughts and opinions about each issue. It doesn't take a lot of time, and I feel I have a voice that is being heard. So, to the followers of the show and this book, let's hear from you. What's your opinion on the stories? What characters or aliens do you want to see? How is the art? C'mon people, this book is for our entertainment... so let's make it the best it can be and hear your opinions.

Fantastic news about the annual coming in July. As far as I can recollect, you are right in that this will be the first American annual. There have been many annuals released over the years from the UK, but this will be the first American one. And what a lineup of talent you have for the issue. I for one can not wait for the release of this.

I have mixed emotions on the upcoming "Final Sacrifice" story line. As this will be the send-off for the 10th Doctor, I really don't want to see him go. He was by far one of my favorite incarnations, and I hope you consider doing future specials/one-shots featuring David Tennant's Doctor. However, I am excited for Matt Smith's Doctor to take center stage and anxious to see the interpretation of his character, as there are not a lot of episodes to base his portrayal on.

Okay, onto issue #10 itself. Again, Blair's art is exceptional. I liked his work on the sketch cards he did for some of the Rittenhouse card sets, but he's been stepping up big-time with these issues. Charlie's colors and Neil's lettering really seem to complement Blair's art. Tony's writing is exceptional, and I hope to see his writing skills tackle stories on Matt's Doctor. And Denton, thank you for putting this great creative team together and the high quality of work that goes into these issues.

Here are things I would like to see in the future (which I have mentioned in the past): a companions or aliens spotlight series or specials, more photo covers, a book featuring the art or conceptual art of the series (maybe a pinup book), and a trading card set. Any readers out there have any input on these suggestions? Let's hear from you...

As always, thank you for your time and see you next issue.

All The Best,
Jeff Thompson

Thanks for the kind words, Jeff.

I hope your call to arms hits the right chord with our readers, and we get plenty of useful feedback. My biggest hope is that everyone is just really liking what we're doing and would only write in to complain. Or is that all just on the Web now?

***

Well, this issue concludes the "Keep Off the Grass" story arc. I hope you enjoyed seeing Martha again, as well as the fabulous art of Blair Shedd. If you'd like to see either or both come back, let us know by sending an email to letters@idwpublishing.com or posting at our forums at www.idwpublishing.com.

Next month our "Final Sacrifice" story line kicks off with a short prelude in the pages of **Doctor Who Annual 2010**, *continuing in* **Doctor Who #13**, *brought to you by the "Fugitive" art team of Matthew Dow Smith and colorist Charlie Kirchoff. With us always will be writer extraordinaire Tony Lee and cover artist Paul Grist.*

See you next month!

—Denton J. Tipton

ALSO THIS MONTH:

DOCTOR WHO CLASSICS III #4

COMING IN JULY:

DOCTOR WHO ANNUAL 2010

COMING IN JULY:

DOCTOR WHO #13

COMING IN JULY:

DOCTOR WHO CLASSICS III #5

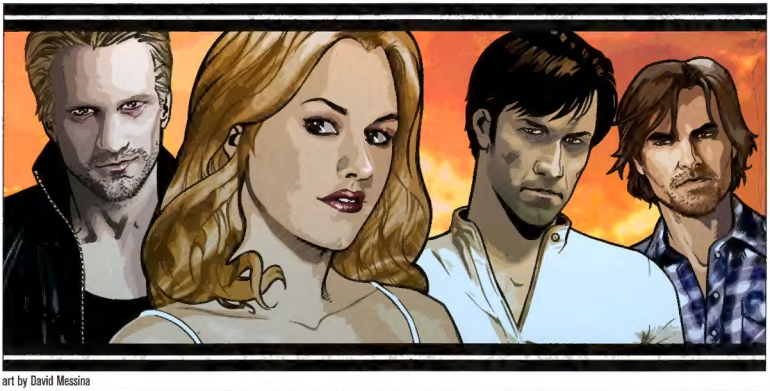
IDWORDS
News from the nerve center of IDW Publishing

COMICS YOU CAN SINK YOUR TEETH INTO

IDW talks with *True Blood* creator Alan Ball

IDW Publishing announced in April that we will be publishing *True Blood* comics, based on the hit HBO show created by **Alan Ball**. Ball, along with *True Blood* writers **Elisabeth Finch** and **Kate Barnow**, have crafted an intriguing story for the first six-issue arc, and writers David Tischman (*Bite Club, American Century*) and Mariah Huehner are scripting. David Messina (*Star Trek: Countdown*) provides the visuals for the series.

To say we're excited about *True Blood* comics is a vast understatement—the entire team at IDW are fans of the show and are enjoying the opportunity to play with these extraordinary characters. We chatted briefly with Alan Ball about *True Blood* comics.



art by David Messina

JUNE RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

COMICS

Angel #34
Angel: Barbary Coast #3
Army of Two #6
Bram Stoker's Death Ship #2
Doctor Who #12
Doctor Who Classics III #4
Dragon Age #2
G.I. Joe #19
G.I. Joe: Cobra #5
G.I. Joe: Hearts and Minds #2
G.I. Joe: Operation Hiss #5
G.I. Joe Origins #16
Ghostbusters Summer Special: Convolution
Jurassic Park #1
Killing the Cobra: Chinatown Trollop #2
Last Unicorn #2
The Murder of King Tut #1
Pantheon #3
The Pilgrim #2
Spike: The Devil You Know #1
Star Trek: Burden of Knowledge #1
Star Trek: Leonard McCoy, Frontier Doctor #3
Starstruck #10
Tank Girl: The Royal Escape #4
Transformers #8
Transformers: Ironhide #2
Transformers: Nefarious #4
We Will Bury You #4
Witch & Wizard: The Battle for Shadowland #2
Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper #1

GRAPHIC NOVELS • ART BOOKS • SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Archie: The Classic Newspaper Comics, Vol. 1 HC
Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy, Vol. 10 HC
Fallen Angel Omnibus, Vol. 0
Felix the Cat: The Great Comic Book Tails
G.I. Joe: Special Missions, Vol. 1 TPB
Jon Sable Freelance: Ashes of Eden TPB
Little Adventures in Oz Book 2
Love and Capes, Vol. 2 TPB
Negative Burn, Vol. 1 TPB
Star Trek: The Next Generation: Ghosts TPB
Transformers: Allspark Almanac, Vol. 2 TPB
Transformers, Vol. 1: For All Mankind TPB
Transformers: The Covers HC
Tribes: The Dog Years TPB

The Murder of King Tut #1

Spike: The Devil You Know #1

G.I. Joe: Special Missions, Vol. 1 TPB

Negative Burn, Vol. 1 TPB

Comments, questions, suggestions, complaints, gripes, etc., are appreciated. Feel free to send any correspondence to letters@idwpublishing.com or IDWords, 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego, CA 92109. You can also join in the hullabaloo on our message boards at idwpublishing.com.

TRUEBLOOD™

art by Joe Corroney

IDW: True Blood is entering its third season this month on HBO and shows no sign of slowing down. If anything, it appears to have a rapidly growing rabid fan base—what do you think accounts for the series' meteoric rise?

ALAN BALL: It's fun, it's surprising, it's sexy. Romantic, scary, and hilarious. There's something for everyone.

IDW: Are you a fan of comics and graphic novels?

AB: I've only recently started getting into them—I am enjoying the amazing work that is being done in this medium.

IDW: Besides True Blood, you've created the hugely popular Six Feet Under and written one of our favorite movies in the past 10 years, American Beauty. All of these stories focus on death and in some manner have the dead communicating with the living. Is there a pattern in here?

AB: Hmm. Death is definitely a big theme for me, as many people to whom I have been close have died over the years. But it's certainly not something I consciously try to do.

IDW: Comics, while a visual art form, is a completely different one than television or film—what creative opportunities do you see in doing comics?

AB: You can do absolutely anything in a comic. No worries about the time or budget required to shoot it. You can destroy planets, have any kind of monster, do things we could never do on the show.

IDW: How involved will you and the show's writers be in the plotting and story content of True Blood comics?

AB: We will be actively involved so that the comic is part of the same universe.

Thanks for taking the time to stop by, Alan!

IDW

art by J. Scott Campbell